the same had to be postponed on the request of some Members.

Economic condition of Beedi Workers in Andhra Pradesh

*96. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied declining living standards of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the study conducted on the economic condition of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) what steps are proposed to stop this decline, and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The Directorate General of Labour Welfare, through the Welfare Commissioner, Hyderabad, in the ordinary course o. their work monitor the living conditions of the beedi workers of Andhra Pradesh. Various measures are already under implementation to improve the economic conditions of beedi workers in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Among the measures that have been taken are:—

(i) The enforcement of the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 has been tightened. The minimum wages have been raised to Rs. 27.50 per thousand beedis.

(ii) The implementation of various welfare schemes under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund has been substantially stepped up. Highest priority is being given to health housing and educational schemes Over 20,000 houses have been constructed for beedi workers under the Housing Scheme for Economically Weakers Sections. Another about 650 houses have been constructed under the Build Your Own House Scheme. About 35,000 children of beedi wrokers are being given educational scholarships/financial assistance for purchase of school dress/text books, slates and note books. Steps have been taken to improve the availability of medicines in dispensaries being run under the Welfare Fund by doubling the financial norms for purchase of medicines and substantial step up in budget provision of each dispensary for purchase of medicines.

(iii) Out of 6.2 lakh beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh 4.05 lakh beedi workers have been covered under the Central Provident Fund Scheme. In addition, about 35,000 beedi workers have been covered under the Group Insurance Scheme in Andhra Pradesh.

This is in addition to various proverty alleviation and employment generator programmes/schemes like. IRDP, JRY, EAS, IAY, DWACRA, TRYSEM, Tribal Sub-Plan, ITDP and Special Component Plan for SCS etc.. which are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh with full force.

देश में गरीबी की स्थिति

*98. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
श्री मूल चन्द मीणा :

क्या **योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में गरीबी की स्थिति संबंधी अद्यतन आंकड़े क्या हैं ;

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान शहरी और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले लोगों की संख्या कितनी है; और

(ग) देश से गरीबी दूर करने के लिए वर्ष 1992 के दौरान शुरू किए गए आर्थिक सुधार कार्यक्रमों का क्या परिणाम निकला ?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गमंग) : (क) से (ग) गरीबी का अनुमान घरेल उपभोक्ता व्यय के पंचवार्षिक सर्वेक्षण के आंकड़ों का प्रयोग करते हुए किया जाता है । जिन दो नवीनतम पंचवार्षिक सर्वेक्षणों के परिणाम उपलब्ध हैं, वे वर्ष 1983 तथा 1987–88 में किए गए थे ।